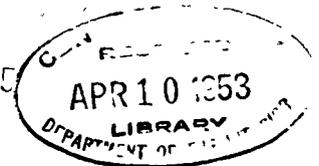


73

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ANNUAL REPORT



7-172

of the COMMISSIONER

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

to the

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Reprinted from the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1952

Fiscal Year Ended June 30

1952



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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Dillon S. Myer, Commissioner



Greatly increased emphasis on the ultimate transfer of Indian Bureau function either to the Indians themselves or to appropriate State and local agencies was reflected during the fiscal year 1952 in almost every phase of the program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

One of the outstanding developments was the establishment of a new Division of Program in the Central Office of the Bureau. The prime function of the new Division is to stimulate, guide and assist the development of joint programming by tribal leaders and Bureau personnel looking toward improvement of the basic economic status of Indians and step-by-step withdrawal of the Bureau from their affairs. Toward this end, staff personnel of the Division visited a large number of Indian areas, consulted with Bureau field personnel and tribal leaders and addressed numerous Indian community meetings on the subject of program development. The result was to bring the centrally important programming work of the Bureau into much sharper focus and to lay the groundwork for more tangible progress in the direction of actual Bureau withdrawal from tribal affairs.

Another development of major significance was the introduction in Congress of bills sponsored by the Bureau and the Department which would provide the authority necessary for complete Bureau withdrawal from the State of California (S. 3005, H. R. 7490, H. R. 7491) and from the area of western Oregon formerly under the jurisdiction of the Grand Ronde-Siletz Agency (S. 3004, H. R. 7489). Before the bills were introduced, Bureau field personnel held extensive consultations with the various Indian groups which would be affected and with key officials of the two States. Because of the many complex land and water problems involving the Indians of California, it was anticipated that the effectuation of complete Bureau withdrawal would require from 3 to 5 years after enactment of the authorizing legislation. Among the 41 bands of the Grand Ronde-Siletz area, it was expected that after enactment of the legislation the job of withdrawal

The total number of reports on public bills prepared in the Bureau during the year was 56, and hearings on approximately 35 public bills were attended by Bureau representatives.

Significant Court Decisions

Of the Indian cases decided during the year special note should be taken of the cases summarized below for the rules of law which they establish.

"Identifiable Group" Under the Indian Claims Commission Act

In Ernest Risling et al. as the Representative and on the Relation of the Indians of California v. United States, the Court of Claims held that the Indians of California are an "identifiable group" under the jurisdictional provisions of section 2 of the Indian Claims Commission Act. In overruling the Indian Claims Commission, the court found that the history of the Indian Claims Commission Act showed the intention of Congress to permit groups of Indians other than tribes or bands to present claims under the act.

Heirship Determination

The Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit on May 13 held in the case entitled *Lee Arenas v. United States* (M-13012), that the United States as trustee for Eleuteria Brown Arenas was not bound by the lower court's decision in which it was determined Lee Arenas was his wife's sole heir. The court found that court which made the heirship finding did not have jurisdiction to ascertain heirs to trust property and that the act of June 25, 1910, is broad enough to cover the determination of heirship even though a trust allotment is issued after the death of the allottee and that the Secretary's determinations thereunder are final and conclusive.

Attorney Contracts

A proposed revision of attorney contract regulations (25 CFR 15) was prepared in July and printed in the Federal Register on August 11, 1951. In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views, the Secretary conducted hearings on the proposed regulations January 3 and 4. Following these hearings, the Secretary decided that the proposed regulations should not go into effect and that further departmental study of the problem was required. Meanwhile, a Senate subcommittee began investigations of the sub-

ject in order to determine whether new legislation is required in this field. This investigation was still in progress at the close of the fiscal year.

MANAGEMENT

The coordination and direction of the work of approximately 13,000 employees in the Bureau of Indian Affairs is a management undertaking of major consequence (see table on page 70). Communication and correlation problems arise because of the widely dispersed field installations throughout the continental United States and Alaska.

Highlights of action during the past year to improve management included: (1) a survey of the Bureau's reporting system and the establishment of a mechanism designed to control reports, (2) solution of over-all problems involving organizational relationships, policies, and procedural standards through the further development, revision, and amplifications of the Indian Affairs Manual, (3) revision of parts of the Code of Federal Regulations to eliminate a great deal of procedural detail by including it in appropriate chapters of the manual, and (4) distribution of carefully prepared management notes to all supervisors to acquaint them with the latest techniques of modern management and to furnish background information on the Bureau's management-improvement program.

In line with the manpower-conservation program of the President, measures were adopted to insure the fullest participation by employees at all levels in the maximum utilization of their skills and abilities. Policy and objective statements regarding a sound and comprehensive Bureau promotion-from-within program were promulgated. Provision was made for each employee to receive detailed information and guidance concerning employee conduct and employee-supervisor relations. The incentive awards program was given added stimulus by the distribution of a chapter in the Indian Affairs Manual. The outline sets forth the essential steps necessary to qualify for an award. A short-term employment form was adopted. The procedure simplifies the appointing, changing, and separation by personnel actions in those positions not subject to the Classification Act of 1949.

Departmental and Bureau officials, in cooperation with representatives of the General Accounting Office, have developed an accounting system for the Bureau's many activities which follows, insofar as practicable, the accounting principles used in private business. The system is designed to serve management needs through a coordinated system of program, accounting, and budgetary reporting; to furnish accounting support for budget estimates; and to provide a basis for verification of the accountability of persons administering public and trust funds and property.

Bureau of Indian Affairs: Distribution of March employment, by area, appropriation, and activities

Appropriation and activities	Total	Aberdeen	Albuquerque	Anadarko	Billings	Juneau	Minneapolis	Muskogee	Phoenix and Sacramento	Portland	Window Rock	Washington, D C
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE SERVICES												
1 Hospitals, disease preventive and curative services.....	2,969	304	211	262	132	584	142	253	375	299	385	22
2 Educational assistance, facilities and services.....	4,469	712	424	374	88	432	109	241	591	121	1,363	14
3 Welfare and guidance services.....	90	17	4	4	2	6	4	13	12	3	18	7
4 Placement services.....	74	15	3	3	3	5	5	5	11	3	16	5
5 Maintaining law and order.....	79	18	1	-----	6	2	-----	-----	18	9	19	2
Total.....	7,681	1,066	643	643	231	1,029	264	512	1,007	435	1,801	60
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT												
1 Forest and range lands.....	311	12	22	-----	47	-----	20	-----	72	69	61	8
2 Fire suppression.....	100	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	100	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
3 Agricultural and industrial assistance.....	243	30	12	13	25	10	5	19	41	21	38	29
4 Soil and moisture conservation.....	228	16	15	45	21	-----	3	24	28	26	46	4
5 Operation, repair and maintenance of Indian irrigation systems.....	159	2	29	-----	11	-----	-----	-----	22	23	72	4
6 Repair and maintenance of roads and trails.....	474	90	43	6	30	-----	30	32	70	88	73	2
7 Development of Indian arts and crafts.....	4	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
8 Management of Indian trust property.....	238	37	8	27	15	5	18	42	29	19	20	4
9 Repair and maintenance of buildings and utilities.....	290	34	11	5	13	64	8	17	33	17	79	18
10 Weed control.....	15	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	13	2	-----	9
Total.....	2,062	221	140	96	162	79	184	134	308	275	389	74
CONSTRUCTION												
1. Buildings and utilities.....	387	2	10	34	12	54	1	4	-----	1	246	23
2 Roads and trails.....	232	11	7	2	3	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	138	2
3 Irrigation systems.....	345	1	10	-----	55	-----	1	16	24	28	47	9
Total.....	964	14	27	36	70	54	2	20	224	52	431	34
General administrative expenses.....	642	85	38	24	68	43	17	32	87	65	59	124
Payment to Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations of Indians, Oklahoma.....	14	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Proceeds of power.....	129	-----	-----	-----	74	-----	-----	14	55	-----	-----	-----

Trust funds												
Indian tribal funds.....	338	6	3	85	-----	20	65	1	44	114	-----	-----
Indian moneys, proceeds of labor.....	346	70	70	-----	25	27	10	4	48	14	78	-----
Operation and maintenance, etc., irrigation systems.....	454	-----	1	-----	98	-----	-----	-----	99	256	-----	-----
Transfer funds												
Control of forest pests.....	1	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Missouri River Basin.....	70	-----	-----	-----	67	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Working funds, access roads.....	44	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	44	3
Total.....	2,038	161	112	109	332	90	93	51	333	449	181	127
Grand total.....	12,745	1,462	922	884	795	1,252	543	717	1,872	1,211	2,802	1,285

¹ Includes 5 field employees paid on the Washington office payroll.
 Aberdeen area includes the States of Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota with 8 agencies, 10 hospitals, 10 boarding schools, and 55 day schools
 Albuquerque area includes the States of Colorado and New Mexico, with 4 agencies, 6 hospitals, 4 boarding schools and 28 day schools
 Anadarko area includes western Oklahoma and the State of Kansas, with 3 agencies, 4 hospitals, and 6 boarding schools
 Billings area includes the States of Montana and Wyoming, with 7 agencies, 5 hospitals, 2 boarding schools and 7 day schools
 Juneau area includes the entire Territory of Alaska, with 7 hospitals, 3 boarding schools and 96 day schools
 Minneapolis area includes the States of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Wisconsin with 4 agencies, 6 hospitals, 2 boarding schools and 5 day schools
 Muskogee area includes eastern Oklahoma and the States of Florida and Mississippi, with 3 agencies, 4 hospitals, 6 boarding schools and 10 day schools
 Phoenix area includes the States of Arizona, Nevada, and Utah with 6 agencies, 10 hospitals, 4 boarding schools and 25 day schools
 Portland area includes the States of Idaho, Oregon and Washington with 8 agencies, 3 hospitals, 4 boarding schools and 1 day school
 Sacramento area includes the State of California, with 1 agency, 1 hospital, and 1 boarding school
 Window Rock area includes the Navajo and the Hopi Reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah and the Intermountain School in Utah, with 2 agencies, 6 hospitals, 14 area boarding schools, 37 community boarding schools, and 14 day schools.

A records survey was made at the Portland area office. This action brought about a better classification of records and improved utilization of filing equipment. Records having historical value were scheduled for General Services records centers. The greatest possible protection was given records retained at the field offices. This type of records-management work will be done at the other area offices.

A special team visited field offices and assisted with the installation of new property procedures. This team gave special attention to the disposition of scrap. Thousands of tons of critical material were channeled for sale. Wherever useful supplies were found in excess of current needs, these were listed for transfer to other activities or Federal agencies where a need existed.

The facilities of the General Services Administration were used extensively during the past year for the procurement of supplies and equipment for direct delivery to field installations. Purchasing has been centralized at the area offices. This has resulted in more advantageous use of supplies and equipment on hand and has done much to eliminate excessive stocks.

Arrangements were worked out during the year for the operation by the General Services Administration of the procurement and warehousing functions at Gallup, N. M. This has been extremely beneficial to the Window Rock area office and the Navajo Indians.